Washington Sentinel.

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,

AND BEVERLEY TUCKER. CITY OF WASHINGTON.

JANUARY 18, 1854.

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agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, several private bills were passed, and also a bill to extend the preemption privilege to California, and a bill to incorporate the Pioneer Manufacturing Company of Georgetown. Mr. Douglas gave notice that on Monday he would call up the Nebraska bill. Mr. Hamlin reported the French spolia-

The House went into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. Several appropriation biffs were read and then laid aside to be reported to the House. Mr. Walsh made a speech with reference to the New York controversy and was followed by Mr. Smith, of Alabama, and Mr. Cutting, on the same sub-

We learn that the debate that sprung up vesterday in the House of Representatives on the subject of New York politics, was very able and unusually brilliant. We shall have some thing to say in regard to it and the distinguished speakers Mr. Cutting and Mr. Walsh, as soon as we have an opportunity of reading a full report of it.

THE NEW YORK HERALD AND MR. REDFIELD'S CONFIRMATION.

Our readers will remember that a few days ago we submitted a few remarks touching the confirmation or Mr. Redfield as collector of the port of New York. Much to our surprise, we find that the New York Herald has entirely misconstrued and misrepresented our views. The Herald of Monday has the follow-

"GIVING UP THE SHIP .- The Washington Sentinel, in a very curious, equivocal sort of an article, gives up the ship. It backs down, and consents to the policy of confirming Redfield, and other obnoxious appointments, on the ground that it is not the business of the Senate o look behind the personal fitness of the nominee for the office to which he is nominated 'Call you this backing your friends?' 'Cal you this an 'independent support' of the cabinet? or is the Sentinel and the House swal lowed up with the cabinet, the House, and the lobby, in the five hundred millions of the spoils?' If this be the case-if the Sentinel, as the organ of the Senate, and by their direction, knocks under, and goes over to the spoils platform-every man of them has yet to an swer before the people. The weak sisters of the House and the Senate will see where the land lies between this time and the year 1856. 'Let them put that in their pipe and smoke

We have never consented to the confirmation of Mr. Redfield's nomination, and we have never denounced Mr. Redfield's confirmation We have done neither the one thing nor the other. We have rebuked those who sought to force Mr. Redfield's confirmation through the Senate by threats of party punishment, and we have given expression to our disapprobation of the course of those who have undertaken to instruct the Senate in the discharge of its duties in that behalf. No press in this country has opposed the removal of Judge Bronson with more firmness than the Sentinel has exhibited; and in the very article which the New York Herald undertakes to criticise, we expressed our willingness to urge the rejection of Mr. Redfield's nomination, if such an act could cure the flagrant wrongs and grevious errors which had been committed in New York.

We did not say, as the Herald represents us to have said, "that it is not the business of the Senate to look behind the personal fitness of the nominee for the office to which he is nominated." On the contrary, we stated expressly that "both branches of the appointing power should look to the antecedents, in order to determine the merits of any applicant for official station." In making this statement we thought that we had clearly and distinctly contended that the history, the past conduct, the former services of an applicant for office should be looked to in forming a judgment as to his fitness for an official post. But the Herald seems to have been seized with a cavilling spirit; but yet we do not think that it will undertake to deny that what we have said is sound and true.

If there is anything in Mr. Redfields's antecedents which render his nomination one not fit to be made-if he has, since his appointment to the New York custom-house, exercised the authority vested in him in an improper manner-then we say that his head should be brought under the axe of the guillotine. If he has been a freesoiler, or if he is now acting in concert with freesoilers, giving them aid and comfort by the means which his official position places at his disposal, hedeserves decapitation; for no freesoiler or freesoil sympathizer should be permitted to disgrace the democratic party by his presence, to say nothing of holding office by democratic appointment.

But we never could see or understand the sense or sagacity which prompts some men to run their heads against a stone wall. We never could see or understand the advantages to be derived from a violent struggle on a false issue, for nothing can be gained in such a struggle. When men have a real, true, substantial basis to stand on, they should be slow to shift their position, lest they plant their feet unawares on slippery ground. When men have a cause which commands the sympathy of honorable men, and when they are bearing up that cause triumphantly, it seems to our weak vision as sheer and naked folly to stop short in their victorious career and strike out into a new path lost a gallant officer, whose every impulse which may lead to an ambush. Under the influence of such sentiments as these, we determined to leave Mr. Redfield's confirmation or rejection to the Senate, where it properly be- are bound to his memory by the ties of consan-

Another consideration operated on us. It was this. A good cause may be damaged by indiscreet arguments, by false issues, by imprudent vindications. The best cause has vulnera-

ble points. A wily enemy, when besieging a without referring to incidents which followed fortress, always seeks to draw its defenders from the strong to the weak points. It is the part of discretion to guard against such arts and stratagems. The ancient fables even notice this idea, when they represent the stout warrior who was vulnerable nowhere but in his heel; the enemy found out his weak point, and assailed it. What we desire to see, is, that the sound constitutional democracy shall employ their strength in defending their strong points, and not suffer themselves to be misled by their watchful enemies.

Nor do we desire to see false issues raised. That lawyer who raises false issues, one after another, and has them decided against him by the judge, will inevitably damage his cause be-

We are at a loss to know what the New York Herald means when it speaks of "other obnoxious appointments," that we would wish disposed of solely with reference to "personal fitness." We do not remember to have poken of any appointment but that of Mr. Redfield, although we have often characterized Cochrane and Fowler as men who should not only be driven from office, but be forever excluded from the democratic party as unworthy of democratic fellowship. As office holders hey have intermeddled in elections in the nost insolent, violent, and disorganizing manner; hence they should be driven from the public service. Pretending to be democrats they have been guilty of faithlessness, and reason, hence they should be forever excluded pure associates.

THE GADSDEN TREATY.

We extract the following from the Washingon Union of vesterday. It is not a little remarkable that the Gadsden treaty, which was confidently asserted by the New York Herald, and just as confidently denied by the Washington Union, should so soon be established, to the joy of the one, and the confusion of the other. Scarce is the denial cold on the lips of the Washington Union, before its own columns contain the proofs of it. All the accounts thus far received, concur as to the area of territory purchased, (39,000,000 of acres,) and as to the price to be paid for it, to wit, \$20,000,000. which would be a little more than half a dollar per acre. We do not purpose saving more on he subject, until the full details of the treaty shall be made known. We do not doubt that there are circumstances connected with it that

will deeply engage public attention. "THE NEWS FROM MEXICO.-We have no hing, in addition to the dispatch we published on bunday morning, in regard to the treaty with Mexico, from our own correspondent; but we see in the Philadelphia North American a fuller lispatch, which we insert. As to the details of he treaty, we have reasons to doubt their accuracy, as given in the several telegraphic dis atches; but that an important treaty has been agreed upon we see no reason to doubt. The following is the dispatch to the North

New Orleans, Jan. 12.—The steamship Tex-"New Orleans, Jan. 12.—The steamship lea-as has arrived at this port from Vera Cruz, bring-ing dates from the city of Mexico to the 5th inst. Mr. Gadsden, the American minister to Mexico, is among the passengers on the Texas, having concluded an important treaty with the Mexican government. The treaty agrees to give 39,000,000, acres, including the Mesilla valley, for \$20,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 is to be reserved for paying

claims, including the Garay grant, &c.

"The Traite d'Union notices the Gadsden treaty favorably, and says it will be received with joy understood that Mr. Sloo pays the Tehu-

antepec Company \$2,000,000 for relinquishing all heir rights. Golonel Ramsey, the two Messrs. Hargous, nd Senor Atocha, are also among the passengers

" Details have been received which confirm the reported destruction of Walker's fillibustering ex-pedition, but there are no later particulars, except report that the Caroline had been captured. General Lombardini is dead, and General Alnonte has succeeded him in the command of the

General Alcosta, Minister of War, has reigned his post in consequence of ill health, and a occessor has not yet been appointed.
"The Texas brings no later dates from Califor-

General Gadsden left here yesterday for Wash The \$5.000,000 reserved from the sum to be

he Indian spoliations, private land claims, &c. LIEUTENANT JOHN A. DAVIS, UNITED

STATES NAVY. The death of our friend, Lieutenant Davis, vas announced in our issue of Sunday last. We would be insensible to one of the sinerest sentiments of friendship we have ever entertained, were we not to notice the very striking evidence of the esteem in which Lieutenant Davis was held by his numerous friends and acquaintances exhibited in his funeral obequies, which took place from St. Patrick's church on Monday at 101 o'clock, A. M. In this political metropolis, where so many

and pageantry, it was refreshing to witness the sincere and honest hearts that went out in the tribute that was on that day rendered to his nany virtues-a tribute in which every department of the government and every class of life were represented. From those high in authority, to the very serving man inclusive, were nearts responsive in condolence, for the loss of one whom none knew but to love, and none named but to praise. The Secretary of the Navy, with kindly and becoming regard for his clear record as an officer of the naval service, promptly issued orders for the official observance of the funeral ceremonies. But the scene presented by the immense gathering of his personal friends-professional and civil-of those whose gentler natures are ever prompt to answer to the demands of grief-of little children to whom the many talks and walks with "Captain Davis" were a choice holyday-this scene. where almost every eye was moistened, and every heart was heavy with its own sadness. was, indeed, one long to be remembered. It was humanizing to see that not even the whirl of busy progress that marks our age had driven out of the human heart a fit appreciation of human merit. Except upon the highest state occasions we have never witnessed so large an attendance

The service to which he was attached, and of which he was so proverbially proud, has sprung from duty and from chivalry. But he has gone from among us, and though like the Indian chief, he has left among men none who guinity, no man ever passed from the scenes of life with more true friends-their homes were his, and they were his family. "After

life's fitful fever he sleeps well." We cannot conclude this imperfect notice,

this most melancholy accident, for they illusrated some beautiful traits of human nature.

Among them, we cannot forbear to mention the kind and disinterested conduct of Mr. Cripps, into whose store it was the good fortune of Lieutenant Davis to be taken. That gentle man, prompted only by the most disinterested kindness, (for the sufferer was an entire stranger to him,) did all that lay in his power to minister to his comfort, not only by his personal efforts, but by disregarding his interest and offering the use of his store until the medical attendants should think it advisable to remove him.

Officer Colclair too, prompted by the same feelings, gave his unremitting personal attention to Lieutenant Davis from the moment the accident occurred, until death terminated the painful scene. Night and day he soothed his sufferings by the kindest and most judicious

The friends of Lieutenant Davis are under deep debt of gratitude to these gentlemen, and with heartfelt sincerity they make their acknowledgments. The grave has closed over all that was mortal of their friend, and if their nearts are oppressed with mournful sorrow at the terriqle catastrophe that struck him down, t is mingled with feelings of gratitude and melancholy pleasure.

THE NAPOLEON AND THE CHEVA-

We transfer to our columns from one of our exchanges the following complimentary notices from the democratic ranks as unfit and im- of two distinguished editors, who so long adorned the press of the country-Thomas Ritchie and John Hampden Pleasants. In politics they were opposites. Their lot was for many years cast in the same city-each was the leader of a party. One has been called the Napoleon, the other may be called the Chevalier Bayard of the press. One has been gathered to his fathers, the other still remains, and we hope will long remain among us. He has the affection of many, the confidence and respect of all:

In the course of Mr. Grigsby's discourse livered on the 16th ultimo, at the Athenæum. in Richmond, before the Virginia Historical Society, he touched incidentally upon the in luence of the press on the convention question in 1829, and drew the following picture of Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Pleasants, as they appeared at the clerk's table of the convention:

"And this leads me to say that there were litting at the clerk's table, busily engaged in taking notes of the proceedings, two men, not members of the body, filling no civil office, who then wielded a greater influence over the people than any other two men in the State, and had long favored, though with very different ulterior views, a change in the fundamental law. The elder of these, for a quarter of a century, had edited a journal, which was the leading organ of the dominant party in the State, with a zeal and ability hitherto unknown n our annals, and with corresponding success. He had taught the people to think his own thoughts, to speak his own words, to weep when he wept, to wreathe their faces with hi smiles, and, over and above all, to vote as he

"A sovereignty so complete over the public mind was not likely to pass uncontested. Boys, who had just laid aside their satchel; statesmen who had lost office, or sought it under a new system; writers of every degree, dipping their pens in ink not unmixed with all, sought to impair it, and sought in vain. Popularity, running through a long lapse of years, and questioned at every step of its progress, is rarely an accident; and it is certain there was an abiding conviction that such in-fluence was wielded by its possesser in a good cause, and that he was as honest as he was able. In person he was tall and lean; his profile so distinctly marked as not, if once seen, to be easily forgotten; quick in all his move ments and in his gait, he leaned slightly for ward. Nor did he spurn the duties of the toilet. In this respect at least he had no mark of the professional devil about him. In the relations of life he was eminently courteous and social, and withal was the most laborious man of his age. The editor of a daily commercial paper and a semi-weekly political one must be a busy man. For many years he drew largely on the small hours of the morning. I have spoken of his tact as a party manager He never lost his temper. He may have acted unwisely, but never rashly or foolishly. If he paid Mexico goes to pay all the claims, including was sometimes seen to trip or fall, it was only to rise again, like Antaeus, with redoubled strength. All parties have their family trou oles. It would happen at times that a politician, who was persuaded by his friends that he did not enjoy that consideration in the party to which he was entitled, would run restive; and it was amusing to see the skill with which our editor would reeve a cord through his nose and lead him cosily about. But it was mainly when a politician abjured his allegiance and joined the opposite party, that his full force was The abuse of his quondam Palinurus was the burden of the rebel's song, and if the abuse of enemies constituted moral wealth in the eyes of friends, he would have been the richest man in the country. Nor did this abuse affect his equanimity; for in his busy life it beare consigned to their last resting place by rule came a matter of course, and he may be said never to have been at peace but in a state of war-never out of trouble but when in it. But as Thomas Ritchie still lives, it is beyond our present purpose to say farther than that all the influence of such a character was thrown on the convention question into the scale of the

"The other person then sitting near him was much younger in years, small in stature, careless in his apparel, his face bearing a weight of premature care-a prophetic face, which was deemed by a brilliant eye. His intellectual endowments were of a high order. In wit, sarcasm, scorn-in a ready command of the choicest words and phrases-in a knowledge of men and things passing before him, and it those qualifications which make up a dashing editorial, he had no superior—hardly an equal. His writings made a new era in our newspaper iterature. Some of his finer touches were h yond the reach of Fonblanque. He made enemies, as all men who, in exciting times, bring positive qualities to bear on exciting topics, are prone to make; yet there were few of his po-itical opponents who did not occasionally relish his raillery even when it played upon their own party. He sometimes fell into amusing mis-takes; for he had read history rather by natches than on system, and he was apt, in the hurry of the moment, to gather his know ledge at second hand; and the lightning of his genius often scorched too severely the objects on which they fell. Nor did he possessperhaps he scorned it—the exquisite tact which is required in a public leader in a coun-try like ours. and which was the prominent characteristic of his great opponent; for, with the single exception of the convention question, Thomas Ritchie and John Hampden Pleasants held no political topic in unison; but, on that

ommon ground, they plied their constant task. Old Coins.-The New Haven Register says that in pulling down a very old house in North Haven, belonging to Harvey Stiles, coins were found in the crannies, one of which, a little larger than a silver dollar, is of a mixture of metals, but looks like iron—having a lion (rampart) for a device, and bearing date 1047. A small gold coin, supposed to be of the reign of George First, and to an end by the measures of compromise in 1850. I shall hereafter delight in recollecting than a silver dollar, is of a mixture of metals, but

CUBAN EMANCIPADOS.

In the course of some remarks which we submitted a few days since, with regard to the propriety of withdrawing our squadron from the coast of Africa, we mentioned that it had been the practice of the British government to sell the slaves taken by its cruisers, for a limited period, to obtain a remuneration for the expenses of their capture. It was, and is our intention to follow up our article on this subject as soon as our other engagements permit us to do so. But the last steamer from Havana brings us the proclamation of the new Captain General. giving the appearance of freedom to the negroes which the British cruisers have introduced into that island, and sold for a term of years. under the name of "emancipados."

The idea is extensively entertained that the British have pursued a consistent plan in this business; and that the object has been steadily pursued to throw into the Island of Cuba as many emancipados as possible; then to demand their freedom, and thereby create a for midable barrier either to Cuban independence or Cuban annexation. But we cannot discuss that point at this time; and we must content ourselves, for the present, by stating that the original order for the manumission of the emancipados was procured from the Spanish government by the British Minister at Madrid: and that the present Captain General of Cuba was appointed to succeed General Concha for the express purpose of carrying into effect the project of emancipation.

The decree to which we allude will be found n another column.

GOVERNOR FOOTE AT SUMTER-VILLE. SOUTH CAROLINA It seems that on Friday, the 13th instant quite an interesting scene occurred in Sumterrille, South Carolina. Governor Foote being accidentally detained for a few hours in that city, on his way hither, a committee of citizens waited upon him, and invited him to address the good people of that vicinage. The following is the letter of invitation received by the

SUMTERVILLE, Jan. 13, 1854.

governor:

To Governor Foote, of Mississippi:
Sir: The citzens of our village desire how you a testimony of their esteem. Understanding your engagements do not permit you to protract your visit, which is acci-dental, will you permit such of us as can be assembled, to hear and see you at the courtnouse, in the course of an hour, to hear from

your own lips some of those eventful facts which have marked your history, and that of our country for the last few years? J. J. KNOX, L. B. HANKS, T. D. FRIERSON, S. MAYRANT.

Governor Foote responded without delay to he call made upon him, and delivered at the ourt-house, in Sumterville, to a large concourse of ladies and gentleman, an address of about wo hours length. Since his arrival in Washngton, two days ago, the following correspondence has taken place, which we publish with pleasure.

SUMTERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, January 13, 1854.

HOD. HENRY S. FOOTE: Permit me, sir, on behalf of the committee

f the citizens whom you this day met, to request from you an embodiment of your views a more permanent form than that of an occasional address. And this, sir, we would do, from the gratification we would derive from a calm resume of the fearful struggle with which you were so conspicuously identified, as well as testimony of mr rosn of the value of your services. Accept the assurance of high consideration,

S. MAYRANT, In behalf of the Committee,

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 16, 1854. S. MAYRANT, Esq., Dear Sir: Your very kind and complimer ary note of the 13th instant is before me, and hasten to respond to its contents. I should ejoice most heartily to find it in my power to omply with the request made by you half of the committee of the citizens" of Sumtervill , were it even possible for me now to do But in a few hours I shall set out for New York, and shall sail for San Francisco, on Friday next; and in the mean time shall be necessarily occupied with preparations for the journey and he interchange of parting civilities with beloved friends, whom I may never again see. You, and those whom you represent, will therefore, I feel confident, excuse my failure to do what has been asked at my hands in relation to the poor address delivered in Sumterville on Frilay last. Allow me though, my dear sir, to express the gratitude which I cannot but feel or the spontaneous and wholly unexpected kindness displayed by my fellow-citizens of your enlightened and patriotic vicinage, towards one who was, until the other day, personally, an absolute stranger among you; whose visit to your city was so purely accidental, and whose conduct and character as a public man, have been for several years past, a favorite sub ject of complaint and of denunciation through out your noble State.

Little did I think when urgently invited to address your citizens, upon questions of great delicacy and magnitude, that it would be my good fortune to find those in whose hearing was to speak the words of unalloyed frankness both in regard to men and measures, cordially, and apparently unanimously, concurring opinions and sentiments—a declaration of which, had elsewhere called down upon me bitter revilement and coarse vituperation .-Little did I expect that the poor harangue, delivered so hastily, by one who had not been allowed to enjoy even a single night's repose for the space of four days, and whose wearied and exausted condition, rendered it almost impossible for him to endure the physical exertion necessarily attendant upon the task to which he found himself so suddenly called, would be so favorably appreciated; and that a copy of it would be demanded with a view to its would be demanded with a view to its "per-manent" preservation. Most honestly holding this same harangue to be altogether undeserv-ing such honor, still am I rejoiced at receiving his decisive testimony, from the bosom of the chivalrous and patriotic State, where slumber the remains of so many illustrious heroes, ora-tors, and statesmen, in proof of the important fact, that, upon the vital and stirring questions now pending, in all their scope and amplitude, the views enunciated by me on Friday last, were such as to command the sanction and support of my fellow-citizens of South Carolina, vithout regard to the party lines which have heretofore separated them.

Abundantly and intensely do I rejoice that the citizens of your vicinage, in approving my address to them last week, have shown that they are united to a man in sustaining the noble Dickinson, Bronson, O'Conor, and the hundred thousand valorous consociates in the Empire State, against the atrocious attempts which have been recently so unpardonably made to crush them beneath the weight of official pa-tronage, and thus treasonably to destroy the only hope of future justice to the south; whilst

that you are resolved to have all the pledges of the present administration carried out in good faith, or unite in punishing the perfidy which may seek to evade them. I spoke in hearing of your citizens, as I had a few days before done in my last official communication to the ne in my last official communication to the legislature of the State of Mississippi, in language frank, explicit, and uncompromising. I tried to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, honestly, boldly, and warmly; and I thank heaven, that the true southern men, and high-spirited American citizens whom I addressed, have more than justi-

ied every word that I then uttered. In my distant home, upon the shores of the Pacific sea, I will look back to the scene which occurred in Sumterville last Friday, and be amply consoled amidst any disasters which may ne, or discouragements to which I may be sub-

Be pleased to say farewell once more to those whom you represent on this occasion, and believe me to be, very cordially and truly, your friend and fellow-citizen, H. S. FOOTE.

Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONCRESS. FIRST SESSION.

Senate-Tuesday, January 17, 1854. The CHAIR laid before the Senate a letter from the Criark and before the Senate a letter from the Postmaster General, in response to a resolu-tion of the Senate calling for information respect-ing the detention of the mails between New York and Washington. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Post Offices and Post Roads.

Also, a communication from the War Department, transmitting a statement of the persons employed, and their compensation, in the War Department, and a like report from the State Department.

Also, a report from the Department of the Inte rior, communicating the names of persons recom-mended to be placed on the pension rolls. All of which were ordered to be printed, and appropritely referred.

Mr. COOPER presented the remonstrance of itizens of Philadelphia against the establishmen of a mint at New York.

MILITARY LANDS. Mr. DOUGLAS introduced a bill authorizing the sale of certain lands reserved for military pur-

NEBRASKA. Mr. DOUGLAS gave notice that on Monday next he would move to take up the bill to establish a territorial government for Nebraska.

SLAVERY AND SLAVE TRADE. Mr. SUMNER presented the memorial of citineasures to effect a separation forever between the general government and slavery and the slave trade. He said that he would suffer the petition

to lie on the table for the present. He also presented the memorial of citizens of New York, remonstrating against paying the own-ers of the slaves of the Amistad. SLAVERY IN NEBRASKA.

Mr. SUMNER laid on the table, that it might be printed, the following amendment, which he gave notice that he would move to the Nebraska

Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be con March 6, 1820, entitled "An act to authorize the people of Missouri Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and to prohibit slavery in certain Territories," wherein it is expressly enacted that, in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisians, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, not included within the limits of the State contemplated by the act, slavery and involuntary servitude otherwise than in the punishment of crime, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and is hereby, forever prohibited.

BILLS PASSED.

Bills of the following titles were then several

A bill for the relief of Ezra Williams.

A bill for the relief of Ezra Williams.

A bill to relinquish to the State of Wisconsin the ands reserved for salt springs therein.

A bill for the relief of John Fagan.

A bill to provide for the extension of the premotion privilege to California. mption privilege to California.

A bill for the relief of the heirs of Judith Wor-

en, deceased.

A bill for the relief of Moses Olmstad. bill for the relief of Lewis Warrenton, and E. St. J. Chubb, executors of Commodore Warrenton A joint resolution to increase the clerical force

n the office of the superintendant of printing.

A bill for the relief of Joseph Gideon. A bill confirming certain land claims in Louisiana, in the Bastrop Grant.

A bill to incorporate the Pioneer Manufacturing Company of Georgetown, D. C., was taken up.

Mr. PETTIT moved to add to the bill a section

providing for the individual liability of the stock-holders for the debts of the company, and the same was agreed to, yeas 47, nays 14, as follows: YEAS .- Messrs. Adams, Allen, Bright, Brodhead

ss, Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Gwin, Hamlin. Iouston, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Mallory, Norris, Pettit, Schastian. Slidell, Stuart, Thomson of New ersey, Wade, Walker, Williams, and Wright-

NAYS .- Messrs. Badger, Bell, Benjamin, Cooper Dawson, Everett, Fish, Foot, Jones of Tennessee Jason, Pearce, Smith, Sumner, and Thompson Kentucky-14.

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

Mr. HAMLIN, from the select committee to which had been referred the bill to provide for the ascertainment and satisfaction of the claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to 1801, gave notice that an early day he would ask for a vote upon it. THE CENSUS.

Mr. BUTLER moved to reconsider the vote by which fifty thousand copies of the abstract of the census were ordered to be printed for the use of After an executive session, The Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

THE SAN FRANCSICO STEAMER. A message was received from the Senate, in passed the resolu ion of the last named body, so as o read as follows:

That a committee of five members on the part of the Senate be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to inquire and report in what form the acknowledgments of Congress and the gratitude of the nation may be most appropriately expressed to those benevolent and courageous propriately expressed to those benevolent and courageous men who, under Providence, were the means of rescuing Mr. CHANDLER moved that the House concur

this, as the House had passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee on its

part,
The SPEAKER remarked that the Senate had nodified the form of the resolution. The motion to concur was agreed to.

Mr. FLORENCE moved that the resolutions on

that subject, offered by him, yesterday, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs; and the mo-tion was agreed to. [The resolutions tender the sincere and heartfelt thanks of Congress to the gallant officers and crews of the ships Three Bells, Antarctic, and Kilby, for their humane conduct in rescuing so many persons from the ill-fated San Francisco, and restoring them to their friends; and requests the President of the United States to cause medals to be struck, with suitable devices, to be presented to those engaged in the act, together with copies of

lies as may be just and proper, and report at an early day to Congress.] DISTRICT COURT IN CALIFORNIA. The House passed the bill concerning the dis

the resolution. Also, that the Secretary of extend such relief to the survivors and their fam

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a con numication from the Commissioner of Public Buildings, submitting estimates for deficiencies of appropriations which are necessary, and without which the public service so far as relates to the public buildings, must suffer.

Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings

The House devoted some time to the considerbill for the relief of B. S. Roberts, which was finally passed. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

committe on the Judicinry, to which had

been referred the resolution of Mr. Ewing, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as to the mode of electing the President and Vice President, made a report thereon. [The amendment proposes to abolish the intervention of electors and destroy the general ticket

representaties in Congres.] The committee say they have had the benefit of The committee say they have had the benefit of an oral and interesting exposition of the important question by the honorable mover of the resolution, and had bestowed much anxious consideration upon the subject. They are satisfied there is a conviction in the public mind of serious evils inseparably connected with the present mode of election; and believing that there is now a calm in the publical elements the committee down in the the political elements, the committee deem it due that Congress should propose some carefully considered amendment in the premises. They therefore ask that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and offer a resolution that the Senate concerning a resolution that the further consideration of the subject, and oner a resolution, that, the Senate concurring, a select joint committee, to consist of nine members of the House and five members of the Senate, be appointed, to whom shall be referred the said proposition as to the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, with in-

structions that they take the matter into conside ration, and report in such manner as to them ma Mr. McMULLEN moved that the report be laid

upon the table and printed.

Mr. EWING inquired what would be the effect of that motion, should it prevail.

The SPEAKER replied, it would practically

close up all further inquiry.

Mr. EWING made an explanation with reference to the subject before the House, and requested the gentleman from Virginia to withdraw

mr. McMULLEN said he had not, as the gen the state of the proposed to test the sense of the House.

Before the subject was disposed of, the morning the state of th

our expired. TERMINATION OF DEBATE. Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, offered a resolution which was adopted, to terminate the debate on the resolutions to refer the several branches of the President's message to the appropriate committees on Thursday, the 26th instant.

NEW YORK PARTY CONTROVERSY.

NEW YORK PARTY CONTROVERSY.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. KEITT was entitled to the floor, but being too unwell to address the committee to-day, the subject pending was laid aside, and at the suggestion of Mr. HOUSTON, the committee took up the navy pension bill; which after being read, was laid aside to be reported to the House, as was also the bill making appropriations for the West Point Military Academy.

The deficiency bill was next taken up, when Mr. WALSH, conceiving that the time for the national democrats of New York to speak thad more than fully arrived, proceeded to draw the broad line of distinction between the "hards" and the "softs." He vindicated the former from sweeping denunciations, and traced the history of the latter, who, he said, were like a band of bandits, drawn together for the sake of common plunder, without honest political principles.

Mr. SMITH, of Alabama, said this was a very important question, not understood by him, and

important question, not understood by him, and he wished to know what was the difference be-tween a New York "hard" and a New York Mr. WALSH replied, The difference between

Mr. WALSH replied, The difference between an honest man and a rogue.

This remark excited excessive laughter.

Mr. SMITH, of Alabama, said he thought the reply of the gentleman equivocal as applicable to the "softs" and the "hards."

Mr. WALSH said that must be left to the gen-

Mr. WALSH said that must be left to the gentleman's understanding.
Mr. SMITH repeated, he was really desirous to be informed of the difference between the "hards" and the "softs;" but it being characteristic of the gentleman, he was excusable for not explaining

further.
Mr. WALSH said he should like to know what

Mr. SMITH replied, he meant broad, blunt, and ot always satisfactory.

Mr. WALSH said the difference between the

Mr. WALSH said the difference between the barnburners, or abolitionists in disguise, or the "softs," and the "hards," was simply that the former never did anything openly, but acted secretly for their own aggrandizement, going over to the enemy to benefit themselves.

Mr. SMITH, to be a little playful, compared the controversy in New York to a state of things which Gulliver saw during his travels in Lilliput; one party contending for the old and ancient way of breaking eggs on the small end, and the other insisting on an older custom of breaking eggs at the big end. The question between the "hards" and "softs" is this: they want to stone the President to death, and the question is whether they dent to death, and the question is whether the shall do it with hard or soft eggs. [Laughter.] He hoped the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Curring.) would give them a true history of the

Mr. CUTTING accordingly took the floor, and, referring to the gentleman's quotation from Gul-liver's travels, said there was a recent period in he south did not stop to inquire who were those who stood by them, through good report and bad, and, when the storm swept over the south, were

true to the constitutional rights of the south.

[This remark was received with applause by southern and other members.] No one then rose in his place to read from Gulliver's travels. He then entered fully into the history of the "hards" and "softs," and was listened to with marked at tention by gentlemen on all sides of the House. Mr. Smith, of Alabama, resumed the floor, when

And the House adjourned.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS. Mr. DOWDELL presented the petition of L. Thomas, a citizen of Chambers county, Al H. Thomas, a citizen of Chambers county, Alabama, asking a pension for services rendered the United States as a soldier, in the last war with Great Britain, and the Indian war of 1836; referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Also, a petition of John Wood, a citizen of Chambers county, Alabama, asking indemnity for losses incurred by him which the county of losses incurred by him whilst in the employment of the government, during the Indian war of 1836; referred to the Committee on Claims.

Communicated.

Washington Aqueduct. MESSRS. EDITORS: The following extract of letter of an intelligent Washington corresondent, is a suitable sequel to your very valu

able editorial of yesterday:

"Upon an appropriation of \$100,000, made by
the last Congress for the water works, and nearly
all of which has been expended in surveys, &c., Captain Meigs is about to negotiate a contract for 40,000,000 of bricks. Let it be remembered, too that this quantity is only a part of all the bricks which will be required, if the grand and magnificent plan we have seen shadowed forth in the government organs here, is carried out. To build a culvert of sufficient strength, fourteen miles long nine feet in diameter, as designed, will take 53,813,740 bricks, as any one may readily see who will take the trouble to make the calculation. These bricks will cost not less than \$538.137. T lay them will cost even more than those laid at the Capitol, because the work is all arching, and none plain work; but, say \$5 per thousand—the cost of laying will be \$430,508. The lime, cement, and sand, the excavations, the building of dams. the excavations and construction of reservoirs the laying of the pipes for distribution of the water the expense to a sum sufficient to swallow up seven millions of the public treasure—enough to sustain the State governments of half the States in the Union for a whole year."

For the Sentine

The Smithsonian Institution The Board of Regents derive all their power over the funds of the Institution from the act of Congress establishing the same.

I have very carefully examined the act, and

have found that the regents are required to erect a large building; to make large annual appropriations for a library; to establish and maintain a museum of natural history, and a gallery of arts; to provide lecture rooms, and by implication lectures, a chemical laboratory, and by implication, chemical investigations that they are authorized to pay the necessary expenses of the regents for attending meetings of the board, and to pay the salaries of officers; and I cannot find that they have any right whatsoever to appropriate one cent of the fund or of the income to any other purpose than the above named, except when not required for

That the income is all required for these pur-

poses seems very manifest from the mere enumeration of them; and the opinion of the re-gents, is abundantly plain from their refusal to accept the museum of the exploring expedition, on the ground that they could not afford to sup-

Now, Mr. Editor, being a plain, comm sense man, I wish to ask, whence the board of regents derive the right to expend the money of the institution in publishing the luxurious vol-umes, which we hear of, bearing the imprint of the institution, and distributed with stately lib-erality to the "principal libraries" of Europe and America.

By answering this question, or giving some one else a chance to do so, you will relieve the perplexity of one knowledge-loving citizen, and enable him to reply to a query which he hears almost every day. ONE "AMONG MEN."

Yocal and Mersonal.

American Colonization Society.-The thirtyeventh anniversary of the society was held at Trinity Church last night. From the reading of the report, we learned the following tacts:

The opening paragraph of the report pays a

The opening paragraph of the report pays a tribute of respect to four of the vice-presidents, Hon. Judge Barret, Hon. Simon Greenleaf, Rev. James Laurie, D. D., and Aaron G. Phelps, esq.

The receipts of the society for the past year were \$82,454 25.

The expenditures have been more, so that the society are now upwards of \$20,000 in debt.

They have sent seven hundred and eighty-three emigrants to Liberia during the year.

The most interesting part of them was a family sent by Montgomery Bell, of Nashville, Tennessee, in the General Pierce, which sailed from Savannah on the 16th of December, consisting of a man and his wife and thirty-six children and grand-children. Mr. Bell gave them a good outfit, and paid their expenses to Savannah, and gave the society \$2,000 towards their colonization. He has a large number, some of whom he wants to send in the next vessel (about eighty); and he is willing to give them a good outfit, pay their expenses to the port of embarkation, and one-half the amount necessary to transport them to Liberia, and support them there six months; and the society are looking out for some generous friend to give them \$2,400 to pay the other balls, so that the interest interest. ing out for some generous friend to give them \$2,400 to pay the other half; so that this interest-

ing company can sail in the packet of the first of April.

They are the "iron men" of Luzerne. Mr. They are the "iron men" of Luzerne. Mr. Bell has long been known as one of the largest manufactures of iron, and his slaves have been his only workmen. They thoroughly understand the business, and are men of high moral character, who would be an acquisition to any country. Thomas Scott, the patriarch of the family, who sailed in the General Pierce, helped to make the cannon balls which were fired from behind the cotton bales at the battle of New Orleans, and is yet a man of great activity and enleans, and is yet a man of great activity and en-

reans, and is yet a man of great activity and energy of character.

The history of Liberia the past year has been such as should encourage the society to press forward in the work. Peace with the natives has prevailed; schools have been multiplied; the churches have been built; the great law of progress is manifest. Liberia now is not exactly what it was at any period you may select in

past history.

The present resources of the society are entirely madequate to the work on hand. The time has now arrived when enlarged improvements must be made in Liberia. The increasing numbers who desire to emigrate, demand enlarge of transportation. Why, then, should not one vigorous effort be made to place in the control of the society a first-class steamer, capable of carry-ing both freight and emigrants, and of making four voyages a year? Can such a line be established? We believe it can.

The first line of British steamers was enabled

to start, by the British government giving them a contract to carry the mails. Let the United States give this society a mail contract, on the same generous terms allowed to other steamships, and then, among the liberal friends of colonization, we can raise the money to

build and equip a steamer.

Private enterprise seems inadequate to the undertaking; without some aid from government.

The same thing was true in establishing the lines of steamers, that are already affoat, and spreading the glory of the country on every sea. If this same assistance is to be granted to anybody to mable them to open steam communication with Africa, it seems but right and fair that it be to this society, in preference to any private indivi-dual or incorporate company. It has labored hard and long to found Liberia, to sow the seeds of ommerce, to open new sources of wealth to

and new markets for the sale of our manufac-tures. Surely, then, it is entitled to any collateral advantages which it may be in the power of our government to bestow, while prosecuting her own egitimate enterprises in that direction! J. H. B. Latrobe, esq., the president of the ociety, addressed the assembly for more than an nour and a half, setting forth the reasons why our government should at once recognise the indeendence of Liberia, as Great Britain, France, and other nations had so promptly done. He showed the importance of cultivating commerce with Africa, so rich in all the productions of the ropics, and of giving the society a contract for the establishment of a mail line to that quarter of the dobe. In conclusion, he drew a vivid contrast between colonization in its infancy-in 1816-and its condition at the present day. Then it was merely a philanthropy: now a political necessity; not affecting party, but the happiness of the human

He warmly and earnestly appealed to Congress in behalf of the cause. Judge Wayne then elequently addressed the

race. What were barren shores then, now present

thriving cities; and a republic is in full operation.

Suffication.-A colored woman belonging to Mr. George W. Steward, was recently suffocated to death by the fumes of charcoal, having taken a vessel containing the ignited material into her coom to keep her comfortable while she dressed

The Egging Case,-We learn that the grand ury have refused to indict A. Hunter, charged with an assault, with eggs, on George Savage, a emperance lecturer, several months ago; the acused having been held to bail to appear at court.

Ex-Governor H. S. Foote,-This gentleman. tho arrived in this city, recently, on his way to California, last night addressed a large number of his friends in the dining room of the National Hotel, by invitation. He expressed his views on national topics in a manner highly acceptable to all who heard him.

A Thief in a Trap.—The Evansville (Indiana) Journal gives an account of a curious attempt at robbery in that city. It seems that a few nights ago the Rev. Mr. McCarer, of Evansville, was diso the Rev. Mr. McCarer, of Evansyling, a noise rebed twice in the course of the night by a noise about the house. Upon making his second tho-rough search, he tracked the noise to the chimney. A close examination convinced him that some owl or other wild animal had taken up quarters there for the night. In a truly unchristian spirit he re-solved to burn the intruder out, when what was his surprise, as the big volumes of smoke and flames rolled up the chimney, to hear a half-stifled voice proceed from the flue, imploring him to "put out the fire." The fire was immediately quenched, the city marshal was sent for, and the occupant of the chimney, who turned out to be a strapping thief, was hoisted out of his nest by means of a

The son of the Emperor of Hayti, has recently arrived in England from France, having travelled under the name of M. Dalval. His hightravelled under the name of M. Dalval. His highness, who is described as a most intelligent and gentlemanlike person, has been sojourning for a short time at the fashionable watering place of Torquay. His object in visiting England is said to be to complete his education, for which purpose he will shortly proceed to Dawlish, and place himself under a clergyman of that place. It is expected that the Emperor of Hayti himself, with some of the members of the court, will visit his son during the ensuing spring.—N. O. Delta.

An immense procession passed through the streets of Baltimore on the 16th, with an effigy of Bedini, the Pope's Nuncio, who was believed to be in that city.